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WASHINGTON, D. C.

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Route #4

Davenport, Iowa

Story of my 4-H Club Work
by Roy Keppy

I became an active member of the Sheridan Sluggers 4-H Boys Club in the fall of 1936.

I enrolled in my first project, which was the market litter, in 1938. The swine project has been of principal interest to me in my 4-H experience, having carried four market litter porjects, five purebred litter projects and four market pen projects.

My project developed from an enterprise of twelve pigs valued at $161.41 in my first year (1938) to one of seventy-one pigs in 1944 valued at $3030.83. The total value of all the pigs I raised in, or as a result of my 4-H projects during my club work is $6916.42. I have invested $375.00 of my profit from hog raising in War Bonds. I have also contributed each year to Red Cross and U.S.O. drives.

In my projects I have experimented with various crosses for market hogs and have raised purebred Hampshires and Chester Whites. For the last five years I have raised purebred Chester Whites for breeding stock which I have developed into a nice business. This year I am planning to sell twenty-four boars and eighteen gilts and I have already sold boars to farmers in three different counties. As a result of 4-H club work I now have an outstanding herd of Chester Whites. Without 4-H club work I probably would not have owned a single hog.

I learned how to judge and select good market and purebred types of hogs by exhibiting at the fair and paying attention to all of the jueges remarks. The 4-H judging contests also gave me valuable experience in judging. I have taken part in all of the local and county 4-H livestock and grain judging contests

held during my club career. I also took part in the judging contests held with the state fair one year and at the state 4-H Short Course. My best score has always been in hog judging.

By helping to advertise my hogs, my exhibiting at the fair has also helped me sell my purebred stock.

The book "Feeds and Feeding" by Morrison awarded to me for being the outstanding pig club member in Scott County a number of years ago has helped my use better feeding and sanitation practices. Club agents have also given me much valuable advice regarding hog raising.

As a reslut of my 4-H club projects I have also interested relatives, friends and other 4-H members in better methods of hog raising. Market hogs is a principal enterprise of each of my five brothers and I have assisted all of the with vaccinating, castrating and the sorting of hogs for marketing etc. I have also assisted all of my brothers at various times with harvesting and general farming.

I have been working for my brother Charley, who operates a 160 acre farm, for the last four years and for my father on the same farm before then. During this time I have spent many spring and fall nights out in the hog barn during the farrowing season. Last year my brother Charley and I raised four hundred fifty hogs and this year I assisted my brother with the raising of two hundred thirty-five spring pigs and sixty-five fall pigs and seventy-one hogs for myself. The number was decreased because of the request for fewer hogs.

See written paragraph

Another part of 4-H club work which has meant a great deal to me has been the chance to make new friends. I have gotten

to know a lot of members whom I probably would never have known otherwise. I have met and had the chance to know many other fine people such as the county and club agents, 4-H club members and leaders and others such as the late "Uncle Bert" Durant, Chas. Lewis, Gus Schroeder, Emil Kroeger, Herb Plambeck etc. and hog judges such as Rollie Pemperton and Carl Lash. Through the fair I have also gotten acquainted with many of the younger 4-H members whom I enjoy very much because the are so interested in things and anxious to learn.

As I did not finish high school the township meetings and the county Short Courses and 4-H Camps at the fair and other 4-H events have been especially important to me. I have attended and enjoyed a number of 4-H dances and roller skating and other parties and 4-H fun days. One year I took part in the play put on by the 4-H clubs of Sheridan Township at which we made $123.00.

I have learned quite a lot about holding and conducting meetings from club work and have served as secretary and president of our local club. Our club has always been one of the largest in the county.

I have been a member of the Sheridan Sluggers basketball and baseball teams for the last six years and have served as captain of them both. I have also been a member of several of the county all star teams. Sports have taught me that good team work pays.

After war broke out I wondered what would happen to 4-H club work but I soon realized that it was more important than ever before. Our club assisted with both the waste paper and scrap campaigns. I was appointed chairman of the scrap drive ~~and I bo~~r

and I borrowed our truck at home to help with the collection. Our club turned in a truck load and a half of paper and three and one-half tons of scrap. I collected and hauled two tons of iron myself.

Although this is my last year as a 4-H club member I expect to keep in close touch with 4-H club work and to keep on trying to "Make the Best Better." I was elected to serve as assistant 4-H club leader at our last meeting. One of the things I hope I can help see realized for Scott County club members some day is a market hog sale at the 4-H fair just as we have a baby beef sale.

And for the benefit of other 4-H club members too, I would like to say that even though they are busier than ever because of the war, I hope they will keep up their 4-H club work. I have found it pays.